



Dying in Toronto

By Daša Drndić

Translated from the Croatian by Celia Hawkesworth

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All of Drndić's award-winning work fluctuates between fact and fiction, and *Dying in Toronto* gives an account of the author's first year in Canada as a refugee, in 1995. While the book is written in form of essays, it is clearly shaped to tell of that year as a story, and the result is unique in both form and content, combining new techniques of creative personal confession and acute social perception, which offer a rare depth of insight and breadth of perspective on the real, difficult life of an immigrant.

Examining the instinct of the good citizen, our narrator considers the confusion of the multinational myth of the 'New World' through her highly refined, critical intellect. Along the way she creates nothing less than the portrait of a new literary figure – the contemporary intellectual refugee – a point of view at once of its time and acutely contemporary. *Dying in Toronto* is lucid and tenacious, witty and sad, part of the author's inability to reconcile with the status quo, and to fight for justice.

Words of praise for the author:

"Drndić's formidable intelligence and Homeric intention cannot help but thrill and exalt."
—*The Paris Review Daily*

"Wry and kindly, funny, angry, informed and intent on the truth, no voice is quite as blisteringly beautiful as that of Drndić."—*Financial Times*

"... Drndić brought her characters to their ends, 'in a world in its death throes'. Her incisive skill and radical style render potentially grim reading compulsive. She was a voice of - and for - our times."
—*Times Literary Supplement*

"This writer does not tell stories; she had flagrant contempt for them... Her books are contraptions intended to produce a series of psychological and somatic responses in her readers."
—*New York Times*



Daša Drndić (1946-2018) best-known books are *Trieste*— "splendid, absorbing" (The New York Times)—shortlisted for the **Independent Foreign Fiction Prize**, and *Belladonna*—"one of the strangest and strongest books" (TLS)— winner of the 2018 **Warwick Prize**, and EEG – "a masterpiece" (Joshua Cohen). She also wrote plays, criticism, radioplays, and documentaries. Her novel, *Doppelgänger* (Istros Books, 2018) was shortlisted for the **Republic of Consciousness Prize** 2019. *Canzone di Guerra* was published by Istros in 2022 and in the US by New Directions in 2023 under the title *Battle Songs*.